



July 27, 2006

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director

RE: Measure A Strategy 4, Crossing Guard Program – Funding Agreement with Novato Unified School District - Agenda Item 13

Dear Commissioners:

Executive Summary

The TAM Crossing Guard program will provide trained crossing guards for critical intersections throughout Marin County to facilitate school crossings. In order to fully fund the 54 locations and to bring guards onboard in time for the Fall 2006 school year, staff recommends that TAM fund the existing Crossing Guard program in the City of Novato, for those locations that qualify under TAM's program.

Recommendation: Authorize the TAM Chair to represent TAM in an interagency agreement with the Novato Unified School District dedicating funding from the Measure A Transportation Sales Tax Program for the provision of crossing guards at locations that have qualified and been approved by the TAM Board. Funding will go towards supporting an existing contract NUSD has in place for crossing guards.

The TAM Crossing Guard program will provide trained crossing guards for Marin County's most critical intersections. Public Works Directors from the Marin Public Works Association (MPWA) and the TAM Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended 54 crossing guard locations for funding. The initial 39 locations were approved by the TAM Board in February 2006. An additional 15 locations were recommended by the MPWA and TAC in June and by the TAM Executive Committee in July 2006.

The crossing guard program will be implemented based on several policy guidelines. The policies were presented to the Executive Committee in January 2006 and to the TAM Board in February 2006. Administration of the Crossing Guard Program under a single crossing guard contract is included in the policies. Since the policies were developed, TAM selected a contractor to implement the program. This contractor is also under contract with the Novato Unified School District (NUSD) to provide crossing guards and several of the crossing guard locations have been evaluated and approved for funding under the TAM program. TAM and NUSD staffs have discussed alternative approaches to administering the two programs. The development of an agreement with the NUSD to provide funding for the approved locations in the NUSD is recommended at this time.

The Executive Committee considered this funding approach at their July 12, 2006 meeting. Staff reported that it remains challenging for TAM's contractor All City Management Services to fill all of the 54 guard positions by Fall 2006. As well, maintaining the existing contract with NUSD was a cost effective approach. The Executive Committee recommended that the development of an agreement be presented to the TAM Board for approval. TAM would continue to provide oversight and will be responsible for the accountability of the Crossing Guard Program. In this role, TAM would monitor the funded crossing guard locations to ensure that they continue to meet the established criteria and evaluate crossing guard locations that may be requested in the future.

Recommendation:

Recommendation: Authorize the TAM Chair to represent TAM in an interagency agreement with the Novato Unified School District dedicating funding from the Measure A Transportation Sales Tax program, Strategy 4, for the provision of crossing guards at locations that have qualified and been approved by the TAM Board. Funding will go towards supporting an existing contract NUSD has in place for crossing guards.